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OTHER MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 137(VI) CONCERNING LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Addendum

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SPECIFIC ACTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN FAVOUR OF LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

I. Summaries of replies received from individual countries

1. India: According to the Indo-Nepal Joint Communiqué of June 1990, the earlier Indo-Nepal treaties on transit and trade expired on 23 March 1989. The provisions of the treaties were, de facto, restored following the Indo-Nepal Joint Communiqué issued in Delhi in June 1990. It was agreed that pending finalization of a comprehensive arrangement covering all aspects of bilateral relations, status quo ante to 1 April 1987 would be restored in the relations between the two countries. By issue of administrative orders and appropriate notifications, the facilities originally available to both sides under the treaties were made operational from 1 July 1990.

2. The transit facilities provided to Nepal under the agreement are the following: (a) India allows freedom of transit for Nepalese third-country trade across its territories through routes mutually agreed upon; (b) Status quo ante has been restored with respect to border points and routes specified as Land Customs Stations for the movement of goods, with the result that all the 22 Land Customs Stations have been re-opened for the movement of goods between India and Nepal; (c) Movement of Nepalese trucks to and from the nearest railway heads/terminals to pick up the export and transit cargo to Nepal has been restored to the conditions that existed prior to 23 March 1989; (d) Traffic in transit is exempted from customs duty and from all transit duties or other charges except resonable charges for transportation and service charges; and (e) Facilities are provided for warehousing and for storage of goods in transit awaiting customs clearances before onward transportation to Nepal through Indian territories.

3. With respect to trade preferences, the agreement contains provisions which refer to the exemption from duty of customs with respect to a range of primary products and manufactured goods, to the refund of Indian excise duty to Nepal under the duty refund procedure for goods exported to Nepal, to the exports of goods to Nepal even in categories of prohibited or restricted goods on quota a basis and to bilateral arrangements for the importation of crude oil and petroleum products by India on behalf of Nepal.

4. According to the Indo-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce of March 1990, the transit facilities which India provides to Bhutan include the specification of 13 exit/entry points to facilitate imports into and exports from Bhutan and of the import/export procedures with respect to Bhutan's trade with third countries. The agreement also refers to the favourable treatment of merchant ships sailing under the flag of Bhutan. With respect to trade preferences, the agreement stipulates that there is free bilateral trade and commerce between India and Bhutan, that all exports and imports of Bhutan to and from countries other than India are free from customs duties and trade restrictions and that India provides refund of excise duties on goods of its origin exported to Bhutan.

II. Summaries of replies received from international organizations

5. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC): During the period 1976-1990, the Centre carried out a number of studies related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries. These studies were undertaken in Bolivia, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Nepal, Swaziland and Zimbabwe and were essentially focussed on the assessment of investment potentials in these countries, particularly in the mineral sector, and the measures that should be undertaken to bolster their capability to promote joint ventures with multinational corporations on terms and conditions that protect their national interests.